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Technical Note 62

October 1, 1943

Preliminary report on Lumber Production for 1942 in NEBRASKA^{1/}

By L. F. Kellogg
Silviculturist

During 1942, 120 active sawmills in Nebraska produced 4,740,000 board feet of lumber. In addition, some 71 idle mills brought the total number in the State to 191. Early in the year some mills were producing rapidly; but by midyear, the loss of farm labor and of mill labor to other industries and to the armed forces was taking place. This resulted in slowed operation of mills and lowered the production during the latter portion of the year.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census, and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on a complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a Forest Service survey to get information from nonreporting mills and from those not previously on record.

Although the major portion of Nebraska's production was hardwood (97.0 percent) there also was some 143,000 board feet of softwoods, mostly the native ponderosa pine in the northwestern counties, and also small quantities of planted yellow pine, larch, and fir in the eastern prairie section. Cottonwood was outstanding in accounting for 88.2 percent of the State's production, oak followed (3.2 percent), then elm, walnut, ash, basswood and small quantities of other woods (table 1).

Table 1.--Estimated lumber production in NEBRASKA, by kinds of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

	: Quantity produced per annum	:	:	:
	: by mills producing:	:	:	:
Kind of wood	: 49 M or less	: 50 M or more	: Total	: Proportion
	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>M feet b. m.</u>	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Softwoods</u>				
Fir ^{1/}	1	-	1	-
Larch ^{2/}	3	-	3	0.1
Pine, ponderosa ^{3/}	74	50	124	2.6
Pine, yellow ^{4/}	15	-	15	0.3
Total softwoods	93	50	143	3.0
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	21	25	46	1.0
Basswood	16	-	16	0.3
Cottonwood	844	3,335	4,179	88.2

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and the Statistics Division, War Production Board.

(Over)

Table 1 (Cont'd)

	:	Quantity produced per annum	:	:
	:	by mills producing:	:	:
Kind of wood	:	49 M or less	:	50 M or more
	:	Total	:	Proportion
	:	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	:	<u>M feet b.m.</u>
	:		:	<u>M feet b.m.</u>
	:		:	<u>Percent</u>
Elm		104		26
				130
				2.7
Hickory		1		-
				1
				-
Maple		3		-
				3
				0.1
Oak		138		14
				152
				3.2
Sycamore		4		-
				4
				0.1
Walnut		50		10
				60
				1.3
<u>Other hardwoods</u>				
Hackberry		5		1
				6
				0.1
Total hardwoods		1,186		3,411
				4,597
				97.0
Total all woods		1,279		3,461
				4,740
				100.0

1/ Not native; must have originated in planted grove or windbreak.

2/ Not native; probably planted European larch.

3/ The native pine in western and northwestern Nebraska.

4/ Far from native pine; probably from planted groves or windbreaks.

By far the most of Nebraska's lumber was produced in the northeastern portion of the State. In this locality, the broad Missouri River, Platte River, and Elkhorn River bottoms bear stands of cottonwood and small quantities of other woods. An analysis of the State's production, by counties, and two mill classes, shows this production and the number and status of mills (table 2). Annual production varied from 1,000 board feet per county to 1,716,000 board feet per county. In frequency of sawmills, two southeastern counties led all others in the State.

Table 2.--Estimated lumber production and number of sawmills,
by counties and by size classes of mill, in Nebraska,
in 1942¹

County	Production class								
or counties	: 49 M per year : 50 M per year				: Active mills				
known to contain:	Idle	or less	or more	Total	Total				
sawmills	mills:	Mills:	Production:	Mills:	Production:	mills:	production:	Mills	
	No.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	
Buffalo, Franklin									
& Harlan	2	4	21	-	-	6	21	4	
Burt & Dodge	6	3	71	5	512	14	583	8	
Butler & Saunders	2	3	45	-	-	5	45	3	
Cedar, Dixon &									
Pierce	1	6	113	3	228	10	341	9	
Cuming	2	5	112	-	-	7	112	5	
Dakota & Thurston	3	4	69	3	285	10	354	7	
Douglas	2	4	45	-	-	6	45	4	
Gage & Thayer	3	3	36	-	-	6	36	3	
Hall, Howard,									
Furnass & Sioux	6	5	28	4	430	15	458	9	
Hamilton	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Jefferson	1	4	42	-	-	5	42	4	
Johnson & Otoe	-	3	54	-	-	3	54	3	
Kearney	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Knox & Holt	3	8	83	3	1,813	14	1,896	11	

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties known to contain sawmills	Production class							
	: 49 M per year				: 50 M per year			
	: Idle				: or more			
	: mills				: Mills:Production:			
	No.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.
Lancaster	-	3	36	-	-	3	36	3
Madison	1	3	35	-	-	4	35	3
Nance, Cass, Mer- rick & Polk	5	7	55	3	193	15	248	10
Nemaha	1	3	37	-	-	4	37	3
Pawnee	7	9	129	-	-	16	129	9
Platte	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Richardson	7	11	132	-	-	18	132	11
Sarpy	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Seward	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Sheridan & Dawes	7	5	69	-	-	12	69	5
Washington	-	3	28	-	-	3	28	3
Wayne & Staunton	-	3	39	-	-	3	39	3
Webster	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	71	99	1,279	21	3,461	191	4,740	120

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments. Out of Nebraska's 93 counties, only 45 are known to contain one or more sawmills, and therefore this table contains only these counties.

Analysis of the State's output by classes of sawmills shows that small farmer-owned and custom-owned mills produced 27.0 percent of the total; mills producing 50 - 499 M board feet per annum produced a larger portion; and mills producing between 500 and 1,000 M board feet about equalled the second group. To avoid disclosures, those last two groups have been combined, with the result that, together they accounted for 63.0 percent of the State's 1942 production (table 3).

Table 3.--Number and estimated production of sawmills
by production classes, in Nebraska, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills		Lumber production	
	:		:	
	Number	M feet b.m.	Percent	
1 - 49	99	1,279	27.0	
50 - 499	19	1/ (3,461	63.0	
500 - 999	2	1/ (
Total	120	4,740	100.0	

1/ Combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments.

Stocks on hand were reported by only 5 out of the 120 active sawmills; but these represented almost half of the production for 1942. Although six mills together reported a marked increase in stocks, the quantities are insignificant and the trend of no moment (table 4).

Table 4.--Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks on Jan. 1 and on Dec. 31, 1942, and the amount of those stocks, by production classes, in Nebraska

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	Mills	Production	January 1	December 31
	No.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	<u>2</u> ^{1/}	<u>2</u> / ₁	2	1
50 - 499	2	<u>2</u> / ₁	-	92
500 - 999	2	<u>2</u> / ₁	-	100
Total	6	2,006	2	193

1/ Includes 1 idle mill reporting a small stock on hand.

2/ Combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments.